

(b) *Consular bags.* Consular bags must bear visible external marks of their character and their contents are restricted to official correspondence and documents or articles intended exclusively for official use. Consular bags shall not be subject to duty and ordinarily shall not be opened or detained. However, if Customs officers have serious reason to believe that a consular bag contains other than permissible materials, they may request that the bag be opened in their presence by an authorized representative of the foreign government concerned. If this request is refused, the consular bag shall be returned to its place of origin.

**§ 148.84 Special treatment for returning individuals.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, an individual returning to the United States from abroad:

(1) Shall not have his or her baggage and effects admitted free of duty without entry.

(2) Shall not be entitled to expedited Customs examination and clearance of his or her baggage and effects unless the port director finds:

(i) That the individual:

(A) Is seriously ill or infirm;

(B) Was summoned by news of affliction or disaster; or

(C) Is accompanying the body of a deceased relative; or

(ii) That a special circumstance exists which warrants expedited examination and clearance.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “baggage and effects” means any article which was in the possession of the individual while abroad, is being imported in connection with his or her arrival, and is intended for his or her bona fide personal or household use. This term does not include any article imported as an accommodation to others or for sale or other commercial use.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49789, Oct. 25, 1978]

**§ 148.85 Subsequent importations for the personal or family use of diplomatic, consular and other privileged personnel.**

The privilege of importing free of duty and without the filing of any entry articles for personal or family use, but not as an accommodation for

others or for sale or other commercial use, shall be granted upon the request of the Department of State and upon appropriate instructions from the United States Customs Service in each instance, to the following:

(a) Ambassadors, ministers, *chargés d'affaires*, secretaries, counselors and *attachés* of foreign embassies and legations accredited to the United States under subheading 9806.00.40, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202);

(b) Other representatives, officers and employees of foreign governments, under subheading 9806.00.50, HTSUS; and

(c) Other persons designated pursuant to statute or pursuant to treaties between the United States and the countries which they represent, under subheading 9806.00.55, HTSUS.

[T.D. 73–27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 89–1, 53 FR 51266, Dec. 21, 1988]

**§ 148.86 Articles for official use of representatives of foreign governments and public international organizations.**

Office supplies and equipment and other articles for the official use of members and *attaches* of foreign embassies and legations, consular officers, and other representatives of foreign governments or of personnel of public international organizations, may be admitted free of duty under subheading 9809.00.20, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, without the filing of an entry, upon the request of the Department of State.

[T.D. 73–27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 82–145, 47 FR 35478, Aug. 16, 1982; T.D. 89–1, 53 FR 51266, Dec. 21, 1988]

**§ 148.87 Officers and employees of, and representatives to public international organizations.**

(a) *Exemption for baggage and effects.* The baggage and effects of the alien officers and employees of, or representatives of foreign governments, to the organizations designated by the President as public international organizations pursuant to section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act